



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

HOMELAND SECURITY AGENTS CONTINUE PROBE INTO UNDERGROUND BORDER TUNNEL

CALEXICO, Calif. – Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are working around-the-clock to locate the end of an underground tunnel near the international border in east Calexico. The three-foot wide, three-foot high wooden shaft buried 20 feet underground was discovered Friday by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Patrol Agents.

Working with tunnel experts from the National Guard and the Calexico fire department, ICE deployed a robot into the tunnel over the weekend to shoot video of what appears to be a costly and elaborately constructed passageway with good electricity and ventilation.

ICE continues to work closely with Mexican authorities in the ongoing investigation. Officials there discovered an entrance to the tunnel in the rear bedroom of a home in an upscale neighborhood.

“We are working as quickly and diligently as humanly possible to pull the pieces of this puzzle together,” said Michael Unzueta, ICE San Diego special agent-in-charge. “It is the shared goal of all the Department of Homeland Security agencies involved to protect our country from those who could potentially do us harm.”

The tunnel discovered Friday is located approximately 75 yards east of another suspicious area excavated last week by CBP agents. It is the third cross border tunnel uncovered in the Calexico area within the last 15 months.

“Our primary mission is to prevent terrorism and terrorist weapons from entering our country,” said El Centro Chief Patrol Agent Carl McClafferty. “We are vigorously working to uncover all possible entry points within our area of responsibility to maintain operational control of the border and meet our mission goal, protecting America.”

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.